

Amendment Dated May 18, 2005
Response to Office Action Dated 2/18/05

Application No. 10/806,983
Attorney Docket No. 005222.00210

REMARKS

Claims 1-55 are pending. Claims 25-37 are allowed. Claims 1-24 and 38-55 stand rejected. The Applicant is canceling claims 1-24 and 38-55.

Priority

The Office Action requests an update of the status of the application relied upon for priority in the first line of the specification. As originally filed, the patent application claims priority to U.S. Application Serial Number 09/935,348 filed on August 22, 2001. U.S. Application 09/935,348 subsequently matured as U.S. Patent No. 6,736,642 that was granted on May 18, 2004. The Applicant is amending the first paragraph of the specification to update the status.

Claims Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 18-24 are rejected by the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 101 for allegedly being directed to non-statutory material. The Applicant is canceling claims 18-24 without prejudice.

Claims Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 6, 8-11, 14, 16, and 17 are rejected by the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 5,616,033 (Kerwin). The Applicant is canceling claims 1-3, 6, 8-11, 14, 16, and 17 without prejudice.

Claims rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4, 5, 12, and 13 are rejected the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kerwin in view of US 6,155,840 (Sallette). The Applicant is canceling claims 4, 5, 12, and 13 without prejudice.

Claims 7 and 15 are rejected by the Office Action as being unpatentable over Kerwin in view of US 5,791,907 (Ramshaw). The Applicant is canceling claims 7 and 15 without prejudice.

Claims 38-55 are rejected by the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sallette in view of US 6,091,930 (Mortimer). The Applicant is canceling claims 38-55 without prejudice.

Amendment Dated May 18, 2005
Response to Office Action Dated 2/18/05

Application No. 10/806,983
Attorney Docket No. 005222.00210

Allowable Subject Matter

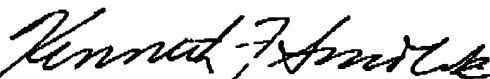
Claims 25-37 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the amendments for allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 18, 2005

By: 
Kenneth F. Smolik
Registration No. 44,344
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.
10 South Wacker Drive
Suite 3000
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: 312-463-5000
Facsimile: 312-463-5001